

IOWA ARTIST **Jim Shrosbree**

TITLE **Wire Creations**

GRADE LEVEL **Elementary**

These lesson plans are designed for art educators to adapt to the needs of their individual classes.

INFLUENTIAL ARTISTS

Henri Matisse
Constantin Brancusi
Paul Klee
Jean Arp
Man Ray
Marcel Duchamp

MATERIALS

Assorted colors and gauges of wires
Pliers
Wire Cutters
Old pantyhose material
Optional:
canvas or other material for display
Paint



Iowa artist Jim Shrosbree
#31 YR (swingfold)

LESSON PLAN: ELEMENTARY Jim Shrosbree

OVERVIEW

Abstract artist Jim Shrosbree uses paint, canvas, wire, wood, fabric, ceramic clay and other materials to create his art. His pieces pose the question, “What is the meaning of these little things?” In this lesson students will use wire and common materials to create an abstract work of art.

Preview Jim Shrosbree’s **Biography**, **Video Synopsis**, **Video** and **Images** of his work on the Iowa Arts Council web site www.iowaartscouncil.org/ and select resources appropriate for your adaptation of this lesson. Have students locate the artist’s place of residence on an Iowa map.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What inspires and influences Iowa artist Jim Shrosbree?
- How does Iowa artist Jim Shrosbree inspire you?
- What else inspires and influences you?

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson students will investigate how they, as artists, can “speak” to their audience through abstract art. After learning about Iowa artist Jim Shrosbree, students will consider how the use of light and shadow impact the viewer’s experience of their piece. Discussion of their final work will center on what inspired them as an artist and how their artwork inspires others.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- connect with the techniques and materials used by artist Jim Shrosbree
- safely use tools necessary for wire work
- compare/contrast wire sculptures to abstract designs
- draw a contour line drawing of sculpture
- use fine motor skills to bend wire to fit the plan for their creation
- compare the texture and gauge of different wires

PROCEDURES

1. Provide time for experimenting with a variety of wires and tools for wire sculpting. Facilitate the discussion of wire properties, techniques and tools needed for sculpting.
2. Identify wire as one of the ordinary materials Iowa artist Jim Shrosbree uses in his abstract work. Provide students a definition of abstract art and create a class web to organize students’ brainstorming about their previous experiences, feelings and perceptions of abstract art. The teacher may choose to share information about other abstract artists and images of their work.
3. Show the video of Mr. Shrosbree.
4. Ask students to identify how Mr. Shrosbree intends to communicate through his artwork. Discuss the technique he uses of sketching a plan and then referring to the plan throughout his work. Share with students images of Mr. Shrosbree’s work and ask what may have inspired the artist and how these pieces inspire them. Discuss how the use of form, color and line communicate through abstract art.

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IOWA'S
CULTURAL
+
ARTISTIC
LEGACY
EVOLVES

Influence + Inspiration

LESSON PLAN: ELEMENTARY
Jim Shrosbree



5. Using wire and a variety of materials, invite students to create a three-dimensional piece. Students will begin with a sketched plan before creating with materials. Instruct students to consider the following while planning and creating:

- Does the work invite the eye to move to see all angles, as Mr. Shrosbree intends his pieces to do?
- Will light or shadow play a part in the experience of the piece?

Mr. Shrosbree uses shadow and light when displaying his pieces and sometimes paints a shadow of his sculptures. The teacher may want students to create a more permanent display where the students further develop their piece using paint, lighting and shadow. The students should name their piece and create a contour line drawing of their sculpture.

6. Provide a small group forum for students to share their work, invite others to respond to the pieces and discuss the abstract characteristics of their piece.

RESOURCES

Internet

www.mmwindowtoart.com/foundations/foundationslinecontour.html

Definition, methods and examples of contour drawings

www.moma.org/?gclid=CJOzw4a-zJUCFQvOlgoduh1miA

Museum of Modern Art providing 150,000 images of modern art

Images

www.daummuseum.org/index.cfm?section=catalogs

This is a catalog featuring ten color reproductions of Mr. Shrosbree's sculptures.

www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/calder_a.html

Alexander Calder biography and examples of wire sculpture

Literature

3-D ABC: A Sculptural Alphabet by Bob Rack

Sculpture: Behind the Scenes by Andrew Pekarik

National Standards | Iowa Standards

1. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes
2. Using knowledge of structures and functions
3. Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas
4. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

IOWA ARTIST **Jim Shrosbree**

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LESSON PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL

Jim Shrosbree

OVERVIEW

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INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- connect with the techniques and materials used by artist Jim Shrosbree
- use form, color and line to visually communicate
- safely use tools necessary for wire work
- compare/contrast wire sculptures to abstract designs
- draw a contour line drawing of sculpture
- use fine motor skills to bend wire to fit the plan for their creation
- compare the texture and gauge of different wires

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Influence + Inspiration

LESSON PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL
Jim Shrosbree



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